

91

EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE

OCI #0709/68
24 April 1968

Budapest Preparatory Commission Begins First Session Today

Communist party experts on international affairs began work on 24 April on an agenda for a full-scale international communist conference in Moscow later this year. Party representation at the current meeting reportedly will be somewhat lower than at the Budapest Consultative Meeting last February, which hosted sixty-six parties. Yugoslavia and Rumania are not attending this session of the Preparatory Commission; the makeup of other Eastern European delegations is reported in today's Annex. [REDACTED]

25X1

COMMENT: The current swirl of rumors in Czechoslovakia has produced some speculation that the Czechoslovak delegation may walk out of the meeting if Czechoslovak internal developments come under attack. An AP report acquired from a "reliable source" even states that the Czechoslovak delegation has orders to walk out if this happens.

Czechoslovak National Assembly Meeting Today

Premier Oldrich Cernik presented the new government's program, based on the "action program" and approved by the party central committee, to the assembly on 24 April.

The government's bill on the "organization and competency of central organs" was the first item proposed for debate. This bill proposes the establishment of ministries for National Economic Planning, Technology, Labor and Social Welfare, and a Bureau for State Prices. It also recommends that some existing state commissions be abolished. Other bills to be given priority treatment will be those dealing with freedom of the press and freedom of assembly. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

COMMENT: According to the Czech news service, the Assembly has begun to act like a real parliament. Assembly members demanded, for example, that the bill on governmental reorganization be referred to the appropriate committees for discussion before being presented to the Assembly as a whole, and one member even demanded that the bill be temporarily withdrawn because it was imprecise. [REDACTED]

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

Tunisian President Bourguiba To Visit Bulgaria

Bulgarian information media have announced that the visit will take place on 3-9 July. During his visit Bourguiba may sign an agreement allowing Bulgaria to repair and build ships at the Tunisian port of Bizerte.

25X1

25X1

COMMENT: Earlier this month Bulgarian deputy Premier Avramov signed an agreement in Tunis which provides for an unprecedented \$35.5 in credits to Tunisia. The only black mark in the rapidly improving Tunisian-Bulgarian relationship occurred last January during the "Friendship" soccer tournament. Nine Bulgarians were thrown out of the game and the Tunisians finally quit the field in protest over Bulgarian "hard play" after six Tunisians were injured, two seriously.

Three Croats Imprisoned for Anti-State Activities

Three Croats have been sentenced to 3-years imprisonment for anti-state activities by a regional court in Osijek, Croatia. They were accused of being members of an illegal Croatian nationalist organization, the Ustashi, distributing propaganda material, and "other hostile" activities.

25X1

25X1

COMMENT: Both Croatian and Slovenian national sentiment have flared in the last year, but this is the first report in some time of a conviction on charges related to activities connected with the Ustashi which will remind Yugoslavs of the bloody civil war of 1941-45. The Zagreb press is currently running a series of articles on the past and present activities of emigre groups--especially Ustashi--however, the Zagreb daily Vjesnik in reporting the trial has made no mention of the defendants' alleged Ustashi connections.

Communists Support Berlin Students' Planned May Day Demonstration

The Chairman of the communist party in West Berlin (SED-West) Gerhard Danelius, has called for large scale participation in student May Day demonstrations scheduled for 1 May. Danelius appealed to all "democratic forces" to make May Day a "new climax" of antifascist unity together with the extra-parliamentary opposition."

Danelius's appeal was aimed at the West Berlin workers and other masses of the citizenry who have shown only disdain

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

for the radical student excesses. "Renazification and fascism" headed the list of grievances the SED-West Chairman cited in his 23 April address to party functionaries. Danelius also mentioned most of the standard student demands and concluded by calling for "normal relations with the GDR."

25X1

COMMENT: The SED-West apparently hopes to capitalize on the student unrest by championing student demands as well as pushing the GDR's policies designed to sever West Berlin's political ties with the Federal Republic.

Czechoslovak Graduates Free Again to Choose Jobs

The government has revoked the 1962 decree on compulsory placement of students in jobs while they were in school and after they graduated, and dropped the "class criteria" for admission of students to higher studies. Vladimir Kadlec, Minister of Education, noted in his announcement that the decree had been based on directives of the party central committee.

In addition, the Food and Agriculture Minister will no longer utilize students as free agricultural labor on an unlimited basis, although he will still be empowered to get a few weeks a year of such labor.

Kadlec also announced that as a result of an "action program" drawn up for his ministry, it has begun to analyse the "problems of independence" of children's organizations, especially the young pioneers (scouts). Presumably this analysis will lead to a change in the character of these groups and they will become less doctrinaire.

25X1

25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2006/03/03 : CIA-RDP79B00864A000800010053-5

INTELLIGENCER ANNEX

Eastern European Delegations to Budapest Preparatory Commission

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Bulgaria | - Boris Velchev, politburo member and party secretary* |
| Czechoslovakia | - Jozef Lenart, candidate politburo member and party secretary |
| | - Oldrich Kaderka, head of CC international affairs department* |
| East Germany | - Hermann Axen, candidate politburo member and party secretary* |
| | - Paul Markowski, head of CC international affairs department |
| Hungary | - Zoltan Komocsin, politburo member and party secretary* |
| | - Frigyes Puja, head of CC international affairs department* |
| Poland | - Zenon Kliszko, politburo member and party secretary |
| | - Andrzej Werblan, ideological aide |
| | - Marian Renke, deputy head of the CC foreign department |

***Attended Budapest Consultative Meeting in February.**